

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 8-9 and 13 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the claims may be found throughout the specification and figures. Entry and consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections - §102(b) Dahlberg

Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Dahlberg (USPN 3,120,083). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, claims 1 and 10 recite, *inter alia*, the edge and engageable edge comprise a pair of connectors for locking the edge and engageable edge to each other vertically and **in a direction perpendicular to the edge**.

Dahlberg does not teach or suggest each feature of the presently claimed invention, as set forth in representative claim 1. For example, Dahlberg does not teach or suggest floorboards that have a pair of connectors for locking the edge and engageable edge to each other vertically and **in a direction perpendicular to the edge**.

Instead, Dahlberg only teach a system that locks adjoining floorboards to each other vertically. There is no connection that locks edges together in a direction perpendicular to the edge disclosed or suggested. Specifically, Dahlberg teaches that the "base has interlocking configurations in the form of undulations extending along its side edges which are shaped to engage with corresponding configurations along the side edges of adjoining tiles." Column 2, lines 51-55. As shown in Figure 3 of Dahlberg, there are only connection elements 17 and 18 to vertically connect the tiles. There are no locking elements that lock edges together in a direction perpendicular to the edge.

The Examiner is requested to review Figs. 3a, 3b and 3c of the present application for a pair of connectors for locking the edge and engageable edge to each other vertically and in a direction perpendicular to the edge.

Quite clearly Dahlberg does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Dahlberg does not teach or suggest floorboards that have a pair of connectors for locking the edge and engageable edge to each other vertically and in a direction perpendicular to the edge.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-7 and 10-12 as being anticipated by Dahlberg, be withdrawn.

Art Rejections - § 103(a) Dahlberg

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlberg (USPN 3,120,083). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As stated above, Dahlberg does not teach or suggest floorboards that have a pair of connectors for locking the edge and engageable edge to each other vertically and in a direction perpendicular to the edge.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 as being unpatentable over Dahlberg be withdrawn.


Conclusion

Favorable examination and further action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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